GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4451
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
UNAPPROVED IRRIGATION PROJECTS OF KARNATAKA
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that Governmentof Karnataka has already executed several unapproved irrigation projects and is still executing many other unapproved projects to use the Cavery river water thereby causing water crisis in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects including flood control and drainage are planned, investigated, funded, executed, operated and maintained by the States from their resources as per their own priority. The Planning Commission vide their letter dated November 30, 2000 have informed the State Governments that all major and or multi- purpose and medium irrigation projects and flood control including drainage projects which have Inter-State ramifications willb e subject to techno-economic appraisal in Central Water Commission (CWC) and then approval by the Advisory Committeeon Irrigation, Flood Control and Multi-Purpose projects in the Ministry of Water Resources before the investment clearance of such projects/schemes is accorded by the Planning Commission. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in their Interim Order dated June25, 1991 have directed the Government of Karnataka to release water from its reservoirs (both approved and unapproved) in Karnataka so as to ensure that 205 TMC of water is available in Tamil Nadu's Mettur Reservoir in a year from June to May.The Tribunal has further directed that the State Government of Karnataka shall not increase its area under irrigation by waters of the river Cauvery beyond the existing 11.2 lakh acres.